

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, GT, BH, UK, P, BOR

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA: PLENARY STATEMENTS BY GUATEMALAN FOREIGN  
MINISTER MOLINA-ORANTES

SUMMARY: MOLINA-ORANTES DEVOTED ENTIRE PLENARY SPEECH TO  
THE BELIZE ISSUE. AFTER PROVIDING LONG HISTORICAL REVIEW,  
HE SAID THAT HE HOPED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UK WILL LEAD  
FINALLY TO A JUST SOLUTION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE  
PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION DOES NOT APPLY IN THE BELIZE DISPUTE.

THE UK AND MEXICO EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF REPLY, AFTER  
WHICH MOLINA-ORANTES REPLIED TO THE UK.

1. GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO MOLINA-ORANTES  
DEVOTED THE ENTIRE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF HIS PLENARY  
PRESENTATION TO THE QUESTION OF BELIZE. HE BEGAN BY  
STATING THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW POSSESSES THE ANSWER FOR A  
PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE NOTED THAT INFRINGEMENT OF  
TERRITORIAL LIBERTY INVOLVES THE "SACRED AND  
INVOLABLE HERITAGE" FOR ALL NATIONS "FOR WHICH THEY HAVE ALWAYS  
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BEEN READY TO SHED THEIR BLOOD".

2. GUATEMALA HAS ALWAYS USED THE UN AS A FORUM TO SPEAK ON THE RETURN OF BELIZE"OVER WHICH MY COUNTRY POSSESS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS SINCE IT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY". HE THEN REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE AREA, BEGINNING WITH THE MAYA EMPIRE. HE NOTED GUATEMALAN RESERVATIONS TO THE UN CHARTER AND TO RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) ON INDEPENDENCE FOR COLONIAL AREAS.

3. HE REITERATED THE "STILL OUTSTANDING CLAIM WHICH IS A AFFRONT TO THE DIGNITY OF ALL GUATEMALANS" AND MADE THE "CLEAR", EXPLICIT" AND "UNWAVERING" DEMAND THAT THE UK DESIST FROM ITS "ILLEGAL OCCUPATION" OF BELIZE. HE REITERATED THAT THE DISPUTE COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED BY JURIDICAL AND DIPLOMATIC MEANS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

4. REFERRING TO POST-1957 NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID THAT APART FROM THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE ITSELF, CAREFUL ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF THE BELIZEANS WHOSE "FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IS INDISPENSABLE "FOR THE FUTURE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF THE TWO TERRITORIES" WHICH CONSTITUTE A SINGLE GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITY".

5. GUATEMALA HOPES THE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WILL RECONCILE THE INTEREST INVOLVED IN ENDING THE DISPUTE AND AVOIDING "THE ENGENDERING OF THE HOSTILITY STEMMING THE RESENTMENT CAUSED BY UNILATERAL OR FORCIBLY IMPOSED SOLUTION". HOWEVER, THE CARDINAL UN PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION DOES NOT APPLY IN THIS CASE OF TERRITORIES "FORMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF A STATE" WHICH HAS BEEN FORCIBLY OCCUPIED.

6. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM AGAINST THE UK "WOULD AVOID FRICTION RESULTING FROM INDIGNATION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF STUBBORN REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE ITS LAWFUL RIGHTS".

7. COPIES OF THE FULL SPEECH HAVE BEEN POUCHED  
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TO THE DEPARTMENT, EMBASSIES GUATEMALA AND LONDON AND  
AMCONSUL BELIZE.

8. MEXICO REPLIED BY MERELY STATING THAT IT WOULD EXAMINE THE GUATEMALAN STATEMENT IN ORDER TO DECIDE IF IT WOULD SPEAK TO THE ISSUE LATER. THE UK PERMREP STATED THAT THE GUATEMALAN ATTITUDE, IF HEEDED BY THE UN, WOULD DENY BELIZE THE UNDISPUTED RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION AND

INDEPENDENCE. HE DESCRIBED THE GOG CLAIM AS ANACHRONISTIC AND DEVOID OF A LEGAL BASIS. FURTHER, GUATEMALA HAD NEVER OCCUPIED THE TERRITORY. HE REJECTED AS UNACCEPTABLE THE CONCEPT OF ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD. THE UK STANDS READY TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE RANGE OF PROBLEMS, BUT ONLY ON THE PREMISE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE.

9. RESPONDING TO THE UK STATEMENT, MOLIA-ORANTES AGAIN REJECTED THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF DETERMINATION AS INAPPLICABLE. HE REITERATED THAT THE EXISTING TREATY (OF 1859) WAS NULL AND VOID. FURTHER, SINCE A PERCENTAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE ARE OF GUATEMALAN ORIGIN, A FORMULA TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE TWO PEOPLES MUST BE FOUND, AND ALL MEANS AND GOOD WILL SHOULD BE USED TO FIND IT.

10. COMMENT: BRITISH PERMREP TOLD MISSION OFFICER BEFORE SPEAKING THAT HE WOULD MAKE "LOW KEY" REPLY TO KEEP DOWN PASSIONS OF GUAYANNA, JAMICA AND BARBADOS. MOYNIHAN

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